I Claim:

- 1 1. A ticket counter comprising:
- a transport mechanism for transporting tickets from an inlet, past a sensor, said
- 3 transport mechanism maintaining contact with the tickets while exposing an outer
- 4 edge of the tickets;
- a sensor adjacent the transport mechanism and positioned to read the exposed
- outer edge of said ticket while said ticket is being transported by the transport
- 7 mechanism, the sensor determining a quantity of tickets transported by the transport
- 8 mechanism past the sensor and generating a signal corresponding to said quantity;
- a computer in communication with said sensors for receiving said signal from
- the sensor; and
- a printer connected to said computer for printing the quantity of tickets
- transported by the transport mechanism past the sensor.
- 1 2. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the transport mechanism transports
- 2 tickets of paper.
- 1 3. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the transport mechanism transports
- 2 tickets of varying widths and lengths.

- 1 4. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a display screen connected to
- 2 the computer.
- 1 5. The ticket counter of claim 4 wherein the display screen displays animation
- while the tickets are being transported by the transport mechanism.
- 1 6. The ticket counter of claim 4 wherein the display screen displays a quiz while
- the tickets are being transported by the transport mechanism, said ticket counter
- 3 further comprising input means to allow a user to respond to the quiz displayed by the
- 4 display screen.
- 1 7. The ticket counter of claim 4 wherein the display screen displays
- 2 advertisement.
- 1 8. The ticket counter of claim 4 wherein the display screen displays a game of
- dexterity while the tickets are being transported by the transport mechanism, said
- 3 ticket counter further comprising input means to allow a user to participate in the
- 4 game of dexterity.
- 1 9. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the computer records information
- 2 encoded on the tickets.

- 1 10. The ticket counter of claim 9 wherein the information encoded on the tickets
- 2 includes the distributor of the tickets.
- 1 11. The ticket counter of claim 9 wherein the information encoded on the tickets
- 2 includes a time that the tickets were distributed.
- 1 12. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein said transport mechanism comprises a
- 2 pair of opposed endless belts rotating in opposite directions at a common speed to
- 3 carry the tickets therebetween, at least one of the pair of endless belts having a width
- 4 less than the width of the tickets to enable the sensor to read the outer edge of the
- 5 tickets.
- 1 13. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a ticket shredding mechanism
- 2 for destroying the tickets transported by the transport mechanism past the sensor.
- 1 14. The ticket counter of claim 1, wherein the sensor detects light passing through
- 2 the tickets.
- 1 15. The ticket counter of claim 1, wherein the sensor interprets bar codes
- 2 imprinted on the tickets.

- 1 16. The ticket counter of claim 1, wherein the sensor is positioned to interpret bar
- 2 codes imprinted on the outer edge of the tickets.
- 1 17. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the sensor is adapted to interpret bar
- 2 codes imprinted with translucent ink.
- 1 18. The ticket counter of claim 17 wherein the translucent ink comprises a
- 2 fluorescent ink.
- 1 19. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a second sensor positioned at
- a second outer edge of the tickets to read an opposite exposed outer edge of the tickets
- while said tickets are being transported by the transport mechanism.
- 1 20. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the sensor is adapted to recognize
- 2 counting markers imprinted on the ticket and determine a quantity of tickets passing
- by the sensor by the number of recognized counting markers on the tickets.
- 1 21. The ticket counter of claim 20 wherein the counting markers correspond to a
- 2 geometric shape spanning two adjacent tickets and bisected by perforations separating
- 3 the two adjacent tickets.

- 1 22. The ticket counter of claim 20 wherein the counting markers are imprinted
- 2 with an opaque ink.
- 1 23. The ticket counter of claim 20, wherein the counting markers occur on a
- 2 common edge of the tickets with a bar code imprinted on the tickets.
- 1 24. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising an optical sensor for actuating
- 2 the transport mechanism upon detection of a ticket at the inlet.
- 1 25. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a second sensor to read an
- 2 opposite side of the tickets while the tickets are transported by the transport
- 3 mechanism.
- 1 26. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising user input means for
- terminating the ticket counting process and initiating a receipt print operation.
- 1 27. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising data transmitting means for
- 2 transmitting data recorded by the computer to a remote computer.